

NATIONAL CANADA'S SESQUICENTENNIAL



Canada is on the cusp of a momentous milestone: the 150th anniversary of Confederation. On New Year's Eve across the country, fireworks marked the birth of our nation and the beginning of a dazzling sesquicentennial year.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL

The last time Canada had a party this big was in 1967, when the country celebrated its 100th birthday. Lester B. Pearson was the prime minister. Under his leadership, the country had just picked a new flag.

The celebrations 50 years ago started on New Year's Day when a new Centennial Flame was lit on Parliament Hill. Ottawa also introduced the Order of Canada, to recognize the extraordinary service and accomplishments of its citizens. Special commemorative coins were also issued.

THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The Centennial Year was a time to build. Canada's baby boomer generation was growing up, and it

needed new colleges and universities, parks, and facilities for sports and culture. Today, the names identify many of these projects: Centennial Stadium at the University of Victoria; Centennial College in Toronto; Centennial Planetarium in Calgary; and the Manitoba Centennial Centre.

Canada also invested in culture. Festival Canada commissioned plays, ballets, musicals and operas, and cities added new venues for staging them, like the National Arts Centre in Ottawa.

Centennial theme songs played on the radio. Bobby Gimby wrote the ubiquitous "Ca-na-da," a peppy tune recorded by a children's choir. Ontario contributed the folksong "A Place to Stand." Gordon Lightfoot gave us "The Canadian Railroad Trilogy," a dramatic ballad about building the Canadian Pacific Railway.

WE ARE CANADIAN

The cultural highlight was Expo 67, the most successful World's Fair of the century. Montreal hosted Expo 67 on an island in the St. Lawrence River. The fair welcomed its first guests in

April. By the time it closed in October, 50 million visitors from across Canada and around the world had come to call.

DID YOU KNOW?

Montreal is also celebrating a milestone this year. 2017 marks the 375th anniversary of the founding of Ville-Marie by a group of missionaries and French colonists in 1642.

Toronto launched its own signature event – Caribana. The Caribbean cultural festival and its world-famous parade have grown over the years. Today, two million people come to the week-long party.

Sports fans were also treated to exciting events. Hundreds of Canadians paddled their way from the Rocky Mountains to Montreal in a 5300-kilometre canoe race. Meanwhile, in Winnipeg, Canadian athletes scooped up 106 medals at the 5th Pan American Games. Elaine Tanner won three races in the pool, while Harry Jerome took gold in the 100-yard dash.

DEFINITIONS

COMMEMORATIVE: intended to honor an important event or person from the past

SESQUICENTENNIAL: a 150th anniversary

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CANADA 150

Now, 50 years later, the country is planning another year-long party to acknowledge what makes us Canadian. Ottawa plans to spend \$500 million to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday – with everything from a cross-country RV tour to a Parliament Hill extravaganza marking the occasion. There will be festivals, cultural events and activities for all across the country.

The Winnipeg Art Gallery is shipping three mobile art studios by boat, rail and road to communities around Canada. Each Art Express'd studio has an artist who will lead **collaborative** art activities.

The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is showing the top 150 Canadian films, while the Toronto Symphony is honouring Canada's **diverse** musical landscape with a year-long program called "Canada Mosaic."

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

Canada 150 pays tribute to the nation's nautical history with a boatload of events. An icebreaker is taking a 150-day tour from Toronto to Victoria via the Northwest Passage. A fleet of 40 tall ships will sail from Halifax to Quebec City. Joining the historic vessels will be Canada's *Bluenose II*, a replica of the famous racing schooner found on our dime.

There are outdoor activities for landlubbers, too, ranging from free visits to Canada's national parks to **bioblitzes** with the Canadian Wildlife Fund. Both of these activities made

THE BIRTH OF CANADA

Before Confederation, Canada was simply a group of unrelated territories and British colonies. It was a dangerous time. After a bitter civil war, the United States was eyeing the vulnerable territory to its north.

Colonists in Canada relied on their mother country for protection. Britain, however, was an ocean away. It was hesitant about defending its North American territories against growing American expansionism.

The British North America Act took effect on July 1, 1867. It united Upper and Lower Canada (Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia into one country to counter the American threat. Sir John A. Macdonald became the country's first prime minister.

In 1870, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories joined the Dominion of Canada. A year later, British Columbia was promised a railroad and signed on. In 1873, Prince Edward Island came into the fold.

The Yukon Territory was added next, in 1898. Alberta and Saskatchewan followed in 1905. Then came Newfoundland in 1949, and Nunavut in 1999. Today, Canada stretches from sea to sea to sea.

Instead of a violent revolution against British rule, Canadians chose a safe transition to self-rule. Unlike the demand for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" in the American Declaration of Independence, Canadians negotiated a calm and reasonable social contract that called for "peace, order, and good government."

ParticipACTION's "play list" of 150 Canadian activities to try in 2017.

REFLECTIONS OF THE FUTURE

Much has changed in 50 years. In 1967, Canada was riding a wave of optimism, whereas in 2017, the future is less certain. Concerns range from climate change and income inequality to water quality in our First Nations communities and Canada's role in the world.

In response, a number of Canada 150 initiatives serve social justice concerns. They encourage young people to share "Lost Stories" and "Voices from Nunavut," and to learn about innovation in science and history. Some of these activities

will be available online and through social media.

Of course, there's nothing like a good old-fashioned party to make Canada smile. This year of celebration will live on in our memories and in our communities, now and 50 years from now, when we mark the bicentennial. ★

DEFINITIONS

BIOBLITZ: an intense period of biological surveying to record all the living species in a designated area.

COLLABORATIVE: involving people or groups working together to produce something

DIVERSE: very different from each other

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ON THE LINES

1. When did the British North America Act take effect?

2. List the first four provinces that joined together to create Canada.

3. Who was the first prime minister of Canada?

4. What was the most important cultural event that took place during Canada's centennial year?

5. Where did this event take place?

6. List at least three other important cultural or sporting events that took place during Canada's centennial.

7. How much money does Ottawa plan to spend on Canada's 150th birthday celebrations?

8. List at least four important events that will occur during Canada's sesquicentennial year.

[illegible]

MAP CANADA MAP ASSIGNMENT

Complete this map assignment to better understand the article *Canada's Sesquicentennial*.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Obtain the required resources and read all the instructions before starting.
2. Colour your map after all labelling is completed.
3. Print in pencil only first, then go over the printing in black ink.
4. Work carefully and neatly.

Resources Required: pencil, black pen, pencil crayons, ruler, eraser and an atlas.

Part A Locate and label Canada's ten provinces in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

British Columbia (orange)	Alberta (yellow)	Saskatchewan (green)
Manitoba (purple)	Ontario (pink)	Quebec (orange)
New Brunswick (red)	Nova Scotia (pink)	Prince Edward Island [PEI] (yellow)
Newfoundland and Labrador (purple)		

Part B Locate and label Canada's three territories in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

Yukon (pink)	Northwest Territories (red)	Nunavut (brown)
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Part C Locate and label the capital city of each province and territory and underline each city name.

Part D Indicate which year each province or territory became a part of Canada.

Part E Locate the capital city of Canada. Label this city in CAPITAL letters and underline.

Part F Locate and label the following countries in CAPITAL letters and shade each as indicated:

United States (grey)	Greenland [Denmark] (green)
Iceland (orange)	Russia (brown)

Part G Locate and label the following and shade all ocean water dark blue:

Pacific Ocean	Arctic Ocean
Atlantic Ocean	

Part H Locate and label the following lakes on your map and shade them light blue:

Great Bear Lake	Great Slave Lake
Lake Winnipeg	Lake Superior
Lake Huron	Lake Michigan
Lake Erie	Lake Ontario

Part I Locate and label the following rivers and shade them light blue:

Fraser River	Mackenzie River
St. Lawrence River	

Part J Locate and label the following lines of latitude:

49° N	60° N
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Part K Complete your map with a frame, title and compass bearing. ★

